



RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

Volume 24, Number 8

March, 1999

The Lone Ranger

By Paul Barringer

"HI-YO SILVER...." The Sound of Gun Shots.... "A Fiery Horse with the Speed of Light, A cloud of dust and a hearty Hi-Yo Silver! The Lone Ranger! With his Faithful Indian companion Tonto, the daring & resourceful masked rider of the Plains led the fight for Law and Order in the early Western United States. No where in the pages of History can one find a greater Champion of Justice. Return with us now to those thrilling days of Yesteryear. From out of the Past comes the thundering hoofbeats of the great horse Silver, the Lone Ranger rides again!"

I know young & old alike have heard that opening many times and I for one never get tired hearing it. I still get chills listening to it.

The Lone Ranger was my all-time favorite program and my love for it extended to the movies, comic strips, books, and television.

Everybody knows the origin of *The Lone Ranger*. Six Texas Rangers were ambushed in Bryant's Gap by the outlaw Butch Cavendish and his gang, after being led there by their outlaw guide Collins, and how the other five Rangers were killed, one of whom was the Lone Ranger's older brother Captain Dan Ried, the leader of the Rangers, and how Tonto nursed the Lone Ranger back to health. You probably know the rest of the story, so I won't continue in that vein.

Continued on Page 4



RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

Dedicated to the preservation of old time radio programs and to making those programs available to our members.

RHAC Board Meeting Thursday, April 8, 1999 - 7:30 PM
At John Adams, 2811 S Valentia St., Denver, CO 80231

Old time radio is alive and well in Denver!

KRMA Channel 6 Secondary Audio Program, RHAC's show *Tribute to OTR* Sunday 2:00 PM
KEZW 1430 AM *When Radio Was* weekdays from 7:00 till 8:00 PM
KEZW 1430 AM *Radio Movie Classics* Sundays 5:00 till 6:00 PM
KFKA 1310 AM *Radio Memories* Sundays 6:00 to 12:00 PM
KUVU 89.3 FM *Destination Freedom* 3rd Sunday of the month 7:30 PM

RHAC WEB SITE The RHAC web page and catalog is on the World Wide Web:
<http://www.old-time.com/rhac.html>

RETURN WITH US NOW... is the official publication of the *Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc.*, a nonprofit organization. Cost of membership is \$25.00 for the 1st year with \$15.00 for renewal. Each member in good standing has full use of the club resources. For further information contact anyone listed below.

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LIBRARIES

Reference Material:	Bill McCracken, address above	303-986-9863
Logs & Scripts:	Fred Hinz, c/o RHAC, P O Box 1908, Englewood, CO 80150	
Open Reel Tape Librarian:	Maletha King, 900 W. Quincy Ave., Englewood, CO 80110	
Cassette Tape Librarians:		
#1 (1-499)	Marilyn J. Turner 2299 S. Sable Blvd., Aurora, CO 80014	303-751-4325
#2 (500-999)	David Gatch PO Box 70, Glen Haven, CO 80532	970-577-0805
#3 (1000-2000)	Dave Logan 5557 S Sherman Cir., Littleton, CO 80121	303-730-1430
#4 (5001 up)	Mika Rhoden 3950W Dartmouth Ave., Denver, CO 80236	303-937-9476

Members' Meeting

There will be a Member's Meeting Thursday, March 18th, 7:30 PM, at the Church of the Master, East 17th Ave. at Filbert Court. Enter through the Filbert Court door.

Activities for the meeting are currently being planned. There will also be an Old-Time Radio *SURPRISE*. Can't tell you about this surprise, but it will be enjoyed by all!



On The Move

The newsletter editor, Stewart Wright, has a new address. It is: 8120 W 26th Ave. Apt 17 Lakewood, CO 80215 Phone: 303-237-4055

E-Mail: stewwright@worldnet.att.net

Please keep those articles coming. They are needed to keep *Return With Us Now...* varied & interesting.

Help Needed: A Tribute To Old Time Radio

John Stevenson and Dave Clow have come up with a plan to get more people involved with the RHAC old-time radio show. If a person or group has a favorite show in the RHAC library, John & Dave will feature the member's show on *A Tribute To Old Time Radio*. This show is aired each Sunday at 2:00 PM through the studios of the Radio Reading Service of the Rockies (RRSR). Their studios are located in Boulder and they transmit on the Secondary Audio Program (SAP) channel of PBS station KRMA-TV (Channel 6, Denver.)

The member is asked to write a script of about a minute's length on the show's history and their reason for their selection. If possible, they can record their script and send it to Dave, or come to his house to record

their script, or let John and Dave do the announcing for them if they wish.

Also, help could be used in the production of the show. Writers, readers, and computer buffs would all be welcome!!!!

A Tribute To Old Time Radio is one hour long and Dave and John try not to run serials or continued shows from week to week; but they have run 15 minute, 30 minute, and 45 minute combinations to make the hour programs. In fact, most of the shows are two 30 minute shows.

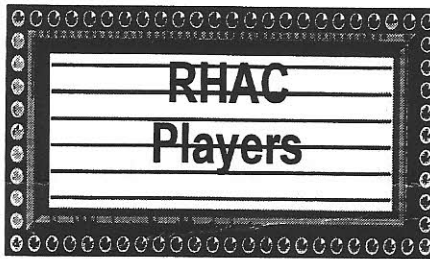
For more information or to submit a script, contact Dave Clow at:

8606 S. Yarrow St.

Littleton, CO 80128

E-Mail: ROFDave@ghostmine.com

Telephone: 303-972-2850



By JoAnn Bantin

Chairwoman, RHAC Players

February brings hearts and flowers to most of us and to the RHAC Players it brings a time of decisions as to what kinds of scripts to choose from, who is interested in sound, electronic techniques, directing, producing, writing, etc, etc. The outcome from all this has led to a new RHAC Players Board which will consist of Dave Clow, John Licht, Larry Weide, Barry Winograd and Jo Ann Bantin. (See page 2 for addresses and telephone numbers.) Hopefully, this will help incorporate more ideas, speed decisions, and help the Players step out into community performances for charities, senior citizens, children's groups, etc. The first Players Board meeting will be held sometime during the first two weeks of March.

The Players are still growing with

about four new members since last month. This is wonderful because the more players, the more we are able to produce. Our goal is still first to have fun and then to give the best quality performance we can. Remember, any-one who wants to get involved, please contact myself or anyone of the new Players board members and they will be happy to hear from you.

Now, about getting involved. We are looking for that special someone that would be interested in operating the mixer & sound amplifier equipment. Some knowledge of electronics would be desirable but the ability to listen and hear sound levels are more important. This is really an important as well as a fun position, so please we would like to hear from you.

Next on our list, John Stevenson is one of our Players and he went to Denver General Hospital for an operation. All of the Players, as well as all of our club members, need to wish him well and send him a lot of encouragement. The outlook is very optimistic, but John will probably not be active with the Players for several months. During that time we will miss him, but will be very happy to have him back soon. As many of you know, John creates our wonderful music for our Player productions and we really need him.

Again, I would like to mention that Dave Clow is still looking for innovative people to help him put together a very special variety show. If it is an idea, or if you like to write, please give Dave Clow a call. I can guarantee you it will be a really fun experience. Also, "The Final Problem", transcribed by John Licht and Charlene Schleneker is still scheduled for May 22nd production. Place and time will be announced soon.

The Players will be announcing their productions, dates, and other fabulous surprises in the next newsletter so be sure to check our column. Have a good Spring and hope to see a lot of you soon.

The Lone Ranger

Continued from Page 1

I would like to tell you what I remember about *The Lone Ranger* and his influence on my life.

I have read about Jack Deeds, who was the first actor to portray The Lone Ranger, followed by then Station Manager Marcus (Brace) Beemer, who left the program and was replaced by Earl Graser who was killed in an automobile accident in 1941. Beemer, who had returned and was the announcer/narrator took over as The Lone Ranger. His is the voice I associate with the program.

Beemer's voice was so intense & articulate, yet so gentle and fatherly. I was immediately held spell-bound by his voice and the moral teachings of the program. There were never any degrading comments on the show or about the actors involved, and that is what the creator George W. Trendle had intended the program to teach.

It must have worked not only for me, but for thousands of others, not only children, but adults also. The show premiered in 1933 and concluded in 1955, over two decades. Three times a week for over two decades... WOW!

Having grown up without a father, Beemer and the character of The Lone Ranger became role models for me. As a character, Will Holden said at the end of the final show, "He's a true American, an hombre who believes always in the right."

The stories I liked most were "The Origin of The Lone Ranger," "The Legend of a Man and His Horse and How They Met," "How the Lone Ranger Found His Nephew," and the Twentieth Anniversary Show, "The Return of Butch Cavendish."

Fred Foy, the announcer/narrator when Beemer was The Lone Ranger, did a fantastic job describing the saving of Silver's life by The Lone Ranger, as Silver was in a death fight with a giant buffalo and also the fight-to-the-death with Butch Caven-

dish and The Lone Ranger. His graphic narration captured your imagination so much, you just couldn't stop listening. In my estimation, Brace Beemer and Fred Foy were the quintessential duo. There were other announcers on the show, but Foy just had that voice, like Brace Beemer, that held you in suspense.

In the show, "How The Lone Ranger Found His Nephew," near the end of the show after Grandma Frisbee had died, The Lone Ranger says to Dan Reid, "Dan, your grandma was a fine woman. It's too bad she had to go, she and your father left you a great heritage. They and others like them have handed down to you the right to worship as you choose and the right to work and profit from your enterprise. They have given you a land where there is true freedom, true equality of opportunity. A nation that is governed by people, by laws that are best for the greatest number. Your duty Dan, is to preserve that heritage and strengthen it. That is the heritage and duty of every American..." All the while the musical melody of "America" plays in the background.

Could anyone have a greater role model? I don't think so. I wish there were stories like that today. If there are any, I must have missed them. But, as I said before, times change and so do values. I still believe some of the lessons and values I learned as a kid growing up in the days past, and as found in the Lone Ranger's Code of the West, such as honesty, fairness, caring, respect, loyalty, tolerance, duty and the moral courage to do what must be done, still holds true today.

I think what the movie studios did to Clayton Moore by not allowing him to make personal appearances in his mask & Lone Ranger garb was a great injustice not only to him, but to thousands of his fans. I'm glad he finally won in the end.

Now a little trivia and obscure facts about *The Lone Ranger* and

others. I know you old-timers will remember all of this, but maybe some of the younger generation will find this interesting. That is why I have been writing these articles.

The six Texas Ranger ambushed at Bryant's Gap were: Captain Dan Reid, John Reid, Jim Bates, Joe Brandt, Jack Stacey, & Sam Cooper.

The only people to know The Lone Ranger's identity were, Tonto, Dan Reid - The Lone Ranger's nephew, Butch Cavendish at his death, Grandma Frisbee as she was dying and Jim Fosset (or Fawcett) who was a retired Texas Ranger and the old man who ran the silver mine for The Lone Ranger.

Everybody probably knows that Britt Reid, the son of Dan Reid Jr. & the great nephew of The Lone Ranger was also The Green Hornet. Well, probably not everyone knows that. Van Williams, who starred as The Green Hornet on television said, although he followed *The Green Hornet & The Lone Ranger* on radio, he didn't know of the relationship until he was cast as The Green Hornet.

John Todd played Tonto throughout the programs airing on radio, and he was in his eighties when the show finally left the airways. I have heard stories about Todd dozing off during the broadcast & Beemer would have to ad-lib until Todd returned from the twilight zone. I guess at his age he earned a little break now and then.

On the radio, the part of Butch Cavendish was played by Jay Michael, who also played Sergeant Preston. (Brace Beemer briefly played Preston also.) On television Cavendish was played by Glenn Strange, who you probably know was Sam, the bartender, on television's *Gunsmoke*, & also was the monster in some of the Frankenstein movies.

Brace Beemer was an excellent horseman & had his own ranch in Michigan. He made personal appearances as The Lone Ranger on a horse named Silver with a silver-studded

saddle worth \$25,000. This was in the forties. I wonder if it is still around today and what it would be worth?

Earl Graser's small stature made him unable to make personal appearances as The Lone Ranger.

Oddly, after the first year on television, *The Lone Ranger*, with Clayton Moore in the title role, the producers decided they wanted someone taller to portray The Lone Ranger. Besides Moore was holding out for more money, so John Hart was cast as The Lone Ranger, but Moore returned after the second season replacing Hart. On the radio John Hart was the All-American Boy from Hudson High, Jack Armstrong.

The 1981 film, *The Legend of The Lone Ranger*, Klinton Spillsbury (what ever happened to him?) Who played The Lone Ranger, had his voice dubbed over by James Keach.

In the first *Green Hornet* serial, Gordon Jones who played The Green Hornet had his voice dubbed over by Al Hodge who played The Green Hornet on radio.

HI-YO-SILVER was used in England during World War Two as a password and countersign.

Fred Harman, who drew *Red Ryder* in the comic strips, also illustrated two *Lone Ranger* books in 1938. That was the same year as *The Red Ryder* strip started.

Clayton Moore was in many serials in the movies, one of which was Republic's *Ghost of Zorro*, playing the title role. That was the same year Moore was cast as The Lone Ranger on television. Moore was very well-liked by the movie audiences, but the casting as The Lone Ranger would thwart future films by him. I don't think he suffered much from it.

Although I never saw the movie serial from Republic Studios, *The Lone Ranger*, I have read, it in no way followed the radio program, other than The Lone Ranger wore a mask and had an Indian companion

named Tonto. Throughout fifteen chapter the audience had to guess which one of the five lawmen was The Lone Ranger, four of which eventually are killed until only one is left, his name being Allen King (played by Lee Powell) who reveals himself as The Lone Ranger.

Only the ardor for the radio program brought forth a serious response from the movie audience and was enough for the studio to release a second serial the next year called, *The Lone Ranger Rides Again*. This time The Lone Ranger was Bill Andrews (played by Robert Livingston.) Whatever happened to the name Reid? Also appearing in the serial was Duncan Renaldo (The Cisco Kid) cast as The Lone Ranger's faithful Mexican companion along with his faithful Indian companion Tonto. Also in the serial was Glenn Strange who I mentioned earlier. Chief Thundercloud was Tonto in both serials.

It seems many of the popular radio programs were adapted to movie serials and comic strip and vice versa.

I could list dozens of the aforementioned, but that would take up an issue of *Return With Us Now...*, so let's end it there.

I never in my life thought I would be doing something like this, writing for the RHAC Newsletter. But once I set down and began to remember my childhood, it all seemed to come so vividly and easy.

Now it's your turn, let's hear from other members and their childhood memories of Old-Time Radio, or from some of our younger members about how they got started in reliving the Golden Age of Radio.

Remember most of this is from memory that I have read, or heard, so if I am wrong, let me know. I would like to hear from some of you, if just to reminisce.

Editor's Note: You will find many episodes of *The Lone Ranger* in the RHAC Tape Libraries.

New in The Tape Library

By Maletta & Dick King

This month's entries into the library brought us back to the days after WWII with the story of a young couple of newlyweds and the problems they had as they migrated to the "city" in the hopes of getting ahead. It was the simple, everyday things that many young couples faced daily, and it was a story that many could relate to in those trying years.

Each episode is followed with a recipe for some very good dishes all made with Pet Milk, the sponsor's product. Those days were long before we thought of cholesterol and watching fats and sugars in our diets. Sugar was energy and we needed lots of it. Things have changed a lot in the way we eat in this day and age.

After four reels of *Mary Lee Taylor's* cooking we move on to the start of a great run of *Lum and Abner*. If you were not a fan of this show, we urge you to just give it a try. It will certainly grow on you. Just how two men could think up the stories and then present the show of simple, clean, comedy that will keep you chuckling during the whole show.

RHAC has several other series of *Lum and Abner* shows in the libraries, but these do not duplicate any of the existing ones we have. Making the cassettes of these shows have given us hours of pleasure and we feel sure that our members will also enjoy them.



Radio Quiz

Member David Michael has submitted quizzes on Old-Time Radio. Watch for new series of quizzes by David starting in May. In the future, the quiz questions AND answers will appear in the same issue.

Answers to February, 1999 Quiz **Match the call letters of some of**

the earliest radio stations with their place of origin.

- 1 9XM — Great Lakes Naval Training Center
- 2 KQV — Pittsburgh
- 3 KDKA — Pittsburgh
- 4 WEAK — New York
- 5 WBZ — Boston
- 6 WWJ (or WWL)
- 7 WDL (later WJZ)— Roselle Park, NJ

Distaff Detectives

Our series women on radio detectives by Jack French, the editor of *Radio Recall*, the newsletter of the Metro Washington OTR Club continues with *Miss Pinkerton Inc.* These articles can also be found on Kevin's Smith's *Thrilling Detective* Web site. Kevin's site is located at: <http://www.colba.net/~kvnsmith/thrillingdetective/>

Mary Vance

© By Jack French

Miss Pinkerton, Inc. was a summer show that NBC ran in 1941 and starred the then-husband and-wife team of Joan Blondell and Dick Powell. (The latter, of course, also was the lead in *Richard Diamond* and *Rogue's Gallery*.) In this series, Blondell played Mary Vance, a law school graduate who inherits her uncle's private detective agency. She is pitted against NYC police Sgt. Dennis Murray (Dick Powell) and, at first, they cannot stand each other. Supporting cast members included Gale Gordon and Hanley Stafford.

Unfortunately, only the audition has survived, but it's very well done. Both Blondell & Powell obviously enjoyed one-upping each other as they raced to solve the crime (stolen gems) before the other. Blondell, whose trademark in Hollywood was being tough, wise-cracking and sexy broad, played Mary Vance the same way.

Miss Pinkerton Inc. (1941, NBC)

30 minute episodes
Starring Joan Blondell as Mary Vance & Dick Powell as Sgt. Dennis Murray
Also starring Gale Gordon, Hanley Stafford.

1999 OTR Conventions

The following is a listing of Old-Time Radio Conventions for 1999. For more information on a specific event, please get in touch with the event contact person.

13th Annual OTR and Nostalgia Convention

April 23-24, 1999
Location: Cincinnati, OH
Contact: Bob Burchett
10280 Gunpowder Rd
Florence, KY 41042
(606) 282-0333

10th Annual Radio Classic Live

May 7-8, 1999
Location: Brockton, MA
Contact: Bob Bowers
Massasoit Community College
1 Massasoit Blvd.
Brockton, MA 02302
(508) 588-9100 ext 1906

RadioActivity 99

Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club
June 17-19, 1999
Location: Beltsville, MD
Activities include a flea market, a huge auction, banquet, seminars, radio repair classes, old equipment contest, & bus trip to the new radio museum of the Radio History Society. Contact:
Brian Belanger
5730 Avery Park Drive
Rockville, MD 20855-1738
(301) 258-0708 or
E-Mail: bcbelanger@aol.com

PEMCO/REPS Showcase VII

(Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound)
June 25-26, 1999
Location: Seattle, WA
The REPS theme for its *Showcase VII*

re-creations & panels is *The Mystery at the Mike*. This theme will be fun, active and highly diverse as it allows us to consider shows as diverse as *The Adventures of Red Ryder* to *Broad-way Is My Beat*; from *Jack Armstrong, the All American Boy* to *Tom Corbett - Space Cadet*, *Adventures of Nero Wolfe*, *The First Nighter*, and *Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar*. These & other shows with mystery themes are being finalized now.

The radio personalities who are scheduled to appear at *Showcase VII* include: Harry Bartell, Dick Beals, Frank Buxton, Stewart Conway, Tommy Cook, Larry Dobkin, Herb Ellis, Ray Erlenborn, Charles Flynn, Art Gilmore, Merril Mael, JoAnna March, Tyler McVey, Norma J. Nilsson, Gil Stratton, Jr, Frankie Thomas, Anne Whitfield-Phillips, Rhoda Williams, Alan Young, & Douglas Young.

Contact: Mike Sprague
Phone: (425) 488-9518
E-Mail: hrrmikes@aol.com

15th Annual Lum and Abner Society Convention

June 25-26, 1999
Mena, Arkansas
Contact: Tim Hollis
81 Sharon Blvd.
Dora, AL 35062
(205) 648-6110

24th Friends of Old-Time Radio Convention

October 21-24, 1999
Location: Newark, NJ
Contact: Jay Hickerson
Box 4321
Hamden, CT 06514
(203) 248-2887
JayHick@aol.com

16th Annual SPERDVAC Convention

November 12-14, 1999
Location: Los Angeles, CA
Contact: Larry Gassman
(562) 947-9800

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SIGNATURE

PHONE NUMBER

RETURN WITH US NOW...

Members' Meeting

The Regular Meeting will be on Thursday, March 18th at 7:30 P.m. The place is as usual, the Church of the Master — East 17th Ave. at Filbert Court. Enter at the Filbert Court door. Filbert Court is between Colorado Blvd. and Monaco.

**RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION of COLO.
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